

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Newsletter

September 5, 2017



From the Pastor . . .

Dear friends,

We are in the midst of much local, national, and global turmoil. As Christians, we are called to respond with our prayers, our voices, our gifts, our time, and our lives. We are called to speak out against injustices that push down people because of the color of their skin, their gender identity, their immigrant status, or any other perceived “difference.” We are called to bear the light of Christ into the dark places of the world.

As Christians, we affirm that we are called to unity in Christ:

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for we are all one in Christ” (Galatians 3:28).

We affirm that we should:

“. . . not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2).

We rejoice that:

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them” (1 John 4:16).

What then are we to do?

The prophet Micah asks the same question and receives the following answer:

“God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

May everything we do in our lives bring peace to the chaos around us, love where there is hate, joy where there is sorrow, welcome where there is exclusion, and humility where there is pride, that we might walk in the light of the Lord now and always.

With love,

Mindy

OUR CONCERNS:

Bob Breitweiser, at Duke Hospital, recovering from heart surgery

Celia and Matt Dickerson

Grace Abels (Peru) and **Carter Momsen-Hudson** (Ecuador), studying abroad this year.

Paul Cornsweet

Bill Lorimer

Julie Maxwell

Atria Senior Living: Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell

Croasdaile: Bette Conroy, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford

The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson

Family and Friends of FPC Members and Staff:

Tom Bowen, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Barbara Cooper, friend of FPC

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Louise Dykes, aunt of Will Chambliss

Kendra Harrington, friend of Jeremy Tucker

Helen Lemmons, aunt of Judy Arrowood

Dell McMillian, brother-in-law of Valerie McMillian

Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

Christina Z., mother of Franzi Rokoske



A "Minute for Peace"

presented September 3 by Sue Fricks

The Season of Peace has begun....

God is calling people to respond to floods, famines, displacements, warfare, and tragedies both large and small. We, God's Beloved People, are listening for opportunities to respond with love and generosity. Where disagreement and conflict are present, God calls us to listen with respect, engage in dialogue and seek mutually satisfying resolution.

In addition, our PC(USA) Mission Agency through the Compassion, Peace and Justice Program offers us two tangible ways to honor this 2017 Season of Peace:

1. Contribute to the 2017 Peace and Global Mission Offering to be received on World Communion Sunday, October 1.
2. Attend the Visit of **Rev. Doug Baker**, an International Peacemaker from Northern Ireland on Monday, October 2 at 7:00pm for Potluck Dessert and Discussion in Fellowship Hall.

Look for more information on both opportunities in next week's newsletter and listen for the next Minute for Peace on Sunday, September 17.

May the Peace of Christ be with You always!!

Sunday, September 10

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

Please Remember

THIS IS COMMUNION and BLESSING BAGS SUNDAY!

As a new way of extending the grace of the Lord's Table in 2017 to others beyond our walls, we are asking the congregation to **bring ready-made blessing bags or supplies for blessing bags on the Sundays when communion is celebrated. Bring your items into the sanctuary with you (as you do the Hunger for Change offering), and place them in the baskets as part of the communion liturgy.** Blessing bags might contain: granola bars, nuts, non-perishable fruit, small bottles of water, snack crackers or cookies. Thank you for being a good neighbor.

Sermon: "*The Armor of Light*" - **Mindy Douglas**, preaching

Lectionary Texts: Exodus 12:1-14; Matthew 18:15-20; Romans 18:15-20

Serving this Sunday:

Liturgist: **Amy Dillon**

Narthex Greeter: **Maxie Honeycutt**

After Worship Greeters: **Alice Raney** (narthex/rear);
Delia Kwon (side/font)

Ushers: **TBD** (head), **Christy Gudaitis** (flowers), **Will Chambliss, Amy Dillon, Jo Bernhardt, Amy Sanchez**

Communion elders:

Head/Replenish elements: **Barbara Buckley**

Bread: **Karen Romines** (process), **Brent Curtis, Eric Wiebe, Sigfried Fullenkamp**

Cup: **Jane Williams, Delia Kwon** (process), **Alice Raney, Dewey Lawson**

Shepherds: **Al Arrowood** (font aisle), **Tyler Momsen-Hudson** (center aisle),
Gray Wilson (pulpit aisle)



NOTES

Many thanks to ***Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield*** for the wonderful Sunday School kick-off breakfast on August 27th. The turn-out was fabulous, and the smell of bacon and pancakes in the church said “welcome back” like nothing else could. Also, kudos to the **Christian Education Committee** for getting our Sunday School year off to a great start. That committee is led by ***Lenore Champion and Caroline Rourk***.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are back in full swing with our Church School year! If you haven't met your new teachers and new classmates yet, come this Sunday and see what's happening in your classes. ***All classes begin at 9:45, and parents are asked to walk your children to their classrooms, and to come back and get them for worship.*** Thank you!

Classes for children (through 5th grade) are held on the second floor of the Christian Education building at 9:45.

Middle and high school youth meet in their designated classrooms in the basement (below the sanctuary) at 9:45.

Faith and Community Class:

Join us this Sunday for the first part of a three week series on poverty in the city. We begin this week with a presentation from ***Gabriel Treves***, Development and Community Affairs Senior Specialist at the **Latino Community Credit Union**. Gabe will lead us in a discussion on banking and credit for poor and immigrant communities, especially regarding the work of the Latino Credit Union in Durham. Gabe is an engaging speaker and we will make sure we have time for discussion and your questions as well! The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45, and all are invited.

Lectionary Class:

What does the Lord's vengeance look like? How does the Lord treat sinful people or sinful nations? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys and Scratch/Young Adults Class:

Journeys and Scratch are meeting together this fall in Room 205 at 9:45. Has modern culture made it difficult to embrace humility and moral reasoning? Join Journeys and Scratch in a discussion of the introduction and chapter 1 of David Brooks' book “The Road to Character.” All are welcome to join the discussion. We meet in the corner room of the 2nd floor of the education building. The class is being team taught by members of both classes. All are welcome.

Spiritual Formation: This year-round class for women is led by ***Susan Dunlap*** and explores the topic of spiritual formation. Join us at 9:45 in **basement classroom B-16**.

New Bible/Book Study: Cultivating Christian Character

What is the content of our character as Christians? Have we been created to compete successfully on the economic playing field, or have we been created to practice a life of self-restraint, self-erasure, and self-suspicion, as author David Brooks suggests in his book, *The Road to Character*? Or are we called to embrace the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as enumerated in Galatians 5: 22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? We'll start with these Christians virtues, and then during Lent, we'll veer over into the classic Christian vices (virtues gone wild!) to see where we stand. Part book study, part Bible study, the class will meet on **Friday mornings from 10:30 – noon**. This **Friday, September 8**, we'll gather at 10:30 a.m. at **Marilyn Hedgpeth's** home (1812 Cole Mill Rd) to socialize and organize for the year, and **the class will begin in earnest on Friday, September 22 at the church, in room 205**. All are welcome and invited to participate.

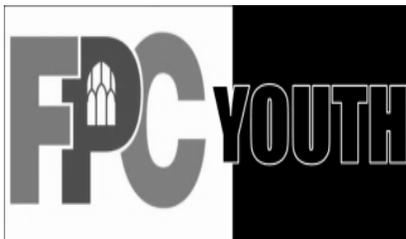
MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY LUNCHEON AND CLASSES

Do you have questions about membership at FPC? Do you want to meet others who are new to the FPC community? Have you already joined, but want to catch up on the ins and outs of FPC life? **We will begin a new series of Membership Inquiry Classes on Sunday, September 10, beginning with a lunch in Watts-Hill Hall following worship**. At that time, we'll make introductions, give an overview of the classes, and get to know each other a little better. Please RSVP to **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you would like to attend the luncheon. Adults, youth and children are welcome.

The **schedule** for the other classes (which are FYI, but not mandatory) is as follows:

9/17 – 9:45	Wilson Parlor, Baptism and Eucharist	Sam Miglarese
9/24 – 9:45	Wilson Parlor, The Liturgical Year	Dewey Lawson/David Smith
10/1 – 9:45	Wilson Parlor History and Theology	Marilyn Hedgpeth
10/8 – 9:45	Wilson Parlor, Polity and Theology	Phyllis Supple
10/15 – 9:45	Wilson Parlor, The Christian Life	Mindy Douglas

At this last class on October 15, those who wish to join will meet with the Session prior to worship, and will be introduced during worship that day. However, you may join at any point in the process, provided you have a conversation with one of the clergy so that the Session can be notified about your desire to join. All are welcome.



Youth group will begin this Sunday evening with a party for all youth grades 6-12 at FPC from 5:00-7:00 pm!

I can't wait to see everyone and have a fun start to our year! - **Sarah**

P.S. Youth can bring a snack or dessert to share! Pizza will be provided!

~ MEETINGS / FELLOWSHIP / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ~

Monday, September 11

(Date changed due to Labor Day holiday)

Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study
10:30 a.m. - East Parlor

Wednesday, September 13

FPC's Budget Working Group
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - East Parlor

SCRATCH / Young Adults Potluck

Saturday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m.
at the home of Kristin Meade.
Respond to the EVITE

First Friends Annual Beach Trip

September 8-10, 2017

Contact Kathy Conner for final details.
(919 451-5445 or kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com)

Anti-Racism Education Corner

If you haven't had a chance yet, please visit the Race Exhibit at the Natural Sciences Museum in Raleigh. Here's a brief description: "What does the word "race" mean to you? This exhibition looks at race through the lens of science, history, and personal experiences to promote a better understanding of human variation. Interactive exhibit components, historical artifacts, iconic objects, compelling photographs, multimedia presentations, and attractive graphic displays offer visitors to RACE an eye-opening look at its important subject matter. RACE tells the stories of race from the biological, cultural, and historical points of view offering an unprecedented look at race and racism in the United States." This exhibit runs through October 22. Maybe some of us can go as groups.

Other Racial Equity Institute training dates:

September 8-9, 2017 REI Phase 1, Durham; September 21-22, REI Phase 1, Raleigh. Please register early as these workshops fill up fairly quickly. Go to <http://www.oarnc.org/events/> and click on *Register Here* to see if there are any openings.

Any questions about the Task Force can be addressed to **Kathy Krahenbuhl, Jon Abels, Diane Standaert, Emily Wilkins, or Sharon Hirsch.**

Book Group

The **Things That Matter Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of **Jane Williams** to discuss Trevor Noah's book, ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood.*** **Mary-Jo Keenan** will lead the discussion. New faces welcome.

Durham/ NC Pride Night

The **Durham Pride** event is right around the corner - **Saturday, September 30, 4:00 pm til October 1, 4:00 a.m.** FPC's **Scratch** is helping to lead the church's representation in the event. If you're interested in getting involved, mark your calendars for the date, and be in contact with either **Claire Tipton** (clairectipton@gmail.com) or **Andrew Kim** (adkim12@yahoo.com), both of whom have graciously volunteered to lead the charge for FPC.

Service and Mission Opportunities

Kudos to Tyler Momsen-Hudson and his mission team that returned to Kinston over the Labor Day weekend to continue repairs there after Hurricane Matthew.

FPC is organizing a Prisoner Re-entry Faith Team

Faith Teams of The Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham

Do you feel a call to serve those who live on the edges, the least among us? Is the opportunity to work at the intersection of evidence-based practice and social justice intriguing to you? Faith Teams are specifically developed to work with people returning from prison. We use an evidence-based practice based in Restorative Justice to substantially reduce the risk of re-offending. We do this by developing friendships that transcend race, class, and background to build the Beloved Community here in Durham.

First Presbyterian is forming a Faith Team to support someone returning from prison to the Durham community. The team will include six volunteers and meet for approximately one year, two times per month. Faith Team training will be on **September 9 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the church.** Please email **Libby Gulley** if you'd like to attend or want more information gulley@nc.rr.com.

Fundraiser for Iglesia Emanuel

Iglesia Emanuel, 2504 N. Roxboro St., Durham, NC will be holding a **Pupusa Sale fund-raiser** on **Saturday, September 9 from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Please come out and enjoy some delicious pupusas and help to support their many programs, through which they provide healthy food to families in need, as well as music, art, and athletic programs for low-income children and youth. They appreciate our on-going support of their ministry!

Supporting Urban Ministries of Durham

Did you know that First Presbyterian volunteers go several times a month to help prepare and serve breakfast and lunch at Urban Ministries, just down the street from our church? This is a wonderful and fun way to share love and nutritious meals with our neighbors. We need several more people for the breakfast shift on **Friday, September 15 (7-9 am)** and two more for the lunch shift on **Friday, September 29 (9:30 - 11:30)**. Please contact **Margaret Rubiera** to sign up, margaretmr29@gmail.com. Thank you!

Habitat in Honduras - 2018 Mission Trip

If you are looking for an unforgettable, challenging way to “Love Thy (International) Neighbor,” consider joining Habitat for Humanity for a 10-day building trip in Honduras. While there, we will provide tangible, hands-on help for our Honduran brothers and sisters, while developing amazing relationships that transcend cultural and language barriers. As you labor and serve, you may just find that the life being changed is yours. **Dates of 2018 trips: January 26 – February 4** (led by *Margaret & Miguel Rubiera*), and **February 9 – 18** (led by *Blake Strayhorn*). All-inclusive cost: \$2,000. Contact Margaret at margaretmr29@gmail.com, or Blake at bstrayhorn@durhamhabitat.org for more information.

Wheels4Hope: Turning Donated Cars into Local Blessings

Wheels4Hope (W4H) is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to helping economically vulnerable families and individuals by providing them reliable, affordable vehicles. Without reliable transportation, many will struggle to work, get to school and to care for their children. There are 12 individuals and families currently waiting on transportation! Thank you First Presbyterian congregation. The ongoing support of your members is helping W4H to succeed in our mission of providing transportation to economically vulnerable families and individuals in our community. Members of FPC have donated 5 vehicles to W4H! W4H had the opportunity to present to the Adult Sunday School class in February of 2013 and celebrate a car blessing with the congregation in the parking lot following a Sunday morning service in February 2014. A Housing for New Hope client received the keys for her 2000 Toyota Sienna during the blessing. W4H would be delighted to work with FPC to make similar arrangements and welcomes new ideas too!

Your help is needed!

- **Donate** your used car
- **Purchase** a pre-owned vehicle from our used car lot
- **Share** about Wheels4Hope with friends, neighbors, and on social media

Wheels4Hope is the only organization in the Triangle area that partners with local community agencies to provide economical vehicles to those on the path to independence. Your support benefits the clients of agencies like StepUp Ministry, Raleigh Rescue Mission, and Habitat for Humanity. We're partnered with over 50 others, many of which you already support. For more information contact: Carol L House (Carol@Wheels4Hope.org or 919-832-1941 x229) <http://www.wheels4hope.org>

CONCERT at FPC

Saturday September 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary.

EL FUEGO Early Music Ensemble presents "Spanish Devotions," a selection of Secular and Sacred Spanish Baroque cantatas by Jose de Nebra and Juan Manuel de la Puente. **ADMISSION: FPC members: \$10.**

General Audience: \$15. Seniors and Students with ID: \$10.

Email: elfuegofire@gmail.com for more information.